

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 33 and 34 is being presented as a new formal drawing sheet to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet or sheets. The drawing Figures 33 and 34 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figures 33 and 34 are to include the legend "PRIOR ART".

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Claim 1 has also been amended to improve its readability. The amendments to improve readability do not narrow the scope of claim 1. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a misspelling. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are now pending in this application.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Drawings

The Office Action indicated that Figures 33 and 34 should be designated by a legend such as--PRIOR ART--. Applicants have amended Figures 33 and 34 to label them as "PRIOR ART", thus overcoming any objections to the Figures.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. The limitations of claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, from which claim 3 directly depends. As discussed below, claim 1 has also been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, independent claim 1 is now in *prima facie* condition for allowance. All of the dependent claims depend from claim 1, and are thus likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 to address the issue raised in the Office Action and submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figures 33 and 34 (Applicants Admitted Prior Art) (hereafter "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,521 to Koike (hereafter "Koike"). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koike, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,247,143 to Suwa et al. (hereafter "Suwa"). These rejections are moot in light of the amendment to independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 33
PRIOR ART

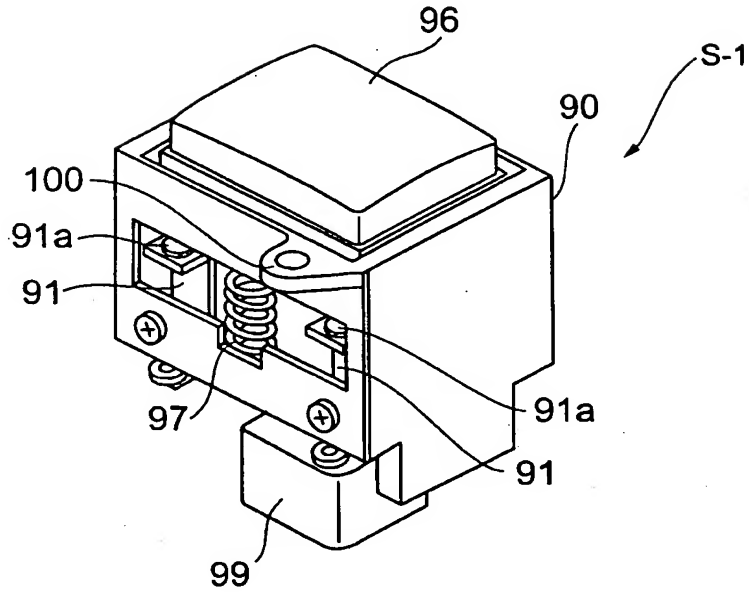


Fig. 34
PRIOR ART

